



SUB-COMMITTEE ON
RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS AND SEARCH
AND RESCUE
4th session
Agenda item 3.1

COMSAR 4/3/9
15 April 1999
Original: ENGLISH

GLOBAL MARITIME DISTRESS AND SAFETY SYSTEM (GMDSS)

Matters relating to the GMDSS Master Plan

Report of Caribbean Sea - Gulf of Mexico Hydrographic Commission (CGMHC) Study Team

Submitted by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document provides a summary of the Caribbean Sea - Gulf of Mexico Hydrographic Commission Study Team's report on the implementation of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System in that area
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 4
<i>Related documents:</i>	None

1 Introduction

1.1 Background Taking into consideration IHO Circular Letter 26/1998, on the "Implementation of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System" and following the Third Conference of the CGMHC in April 1998, the Chairman of the Commission issued an invitation to nations in the region to meet with a visiting Study Team and discuss plans to meet the February 1999 deadline for implementation of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS).

1.2 Composition of team The CGMHC Study Team comprised:

Captain M. K. Barritt RN	Study Team Leader
Capitaine de Fregate N. Blanluet FN	NAVAREA II Co-ordinator
Lieutenant Commander C. J. Pink RN	Secretary IMO NAVTEX Co-ordinating Panel
LT (AMF) J. C. Cornillou	Martinique MRCC

1.3 Countries visited In December 1998 the Study Team visited the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, Barbados, St. Lucia, Dominica, and Antigua.

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2 Country summaries

The following table is a summary of progress towards implementation of GMDSS:

Country	Master Plan	A1 Area	A2 Area	A3 Area	NAVTEX	SafetyNET	Notes
Bahamas	No	Yes	Partial	No	Yes	No	1,2
Jamaica	Draft	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	3
Trinidad	Draft	Yes	Yes	No	Tbc	Tbc	4
Grenada	No	Yes	Shared	No	Shared	Shared	5
Barbados	Draft	Yes	Shared	No	Shared	Shared	5
St Lucia	Draft	Yes	Shared	No	No	Shared	6
Dominica	Draft	Yes	No	No	No	Shared	7
Antigua	NK	Yes	Shared	No	No	Shared	8

Notes:

1. Bahamas A2 Area to cover the northern islands of the Archipelago.
2. NAVTEX Station in the S part of the archipelago for optimum overlap with Miami and Isabella.
3. Proposals, which reflect analysis of traffic, are subject to financial appraisal by Jamaican Government.
4. Choice of MSI medium to be subjected to cost analysis. NAVTEX would provide the best solution, with SafetyNET as interim arrangement
5. Team recommended negotiation for sharing with Trinidad and Tobago. In Barbados the CG expressed a preference for extended French SafetyNET coverage of their Atlantic EEZ.
6. St. Lucia to provide S part of A1 coverage. N part, A2 Coverage, and SafetyNET to be negotiated with French authorities in Martinique.
7. A1 coverage and SafetyNET from Martinique. Dominica wishes to assess cost of implementing own A1 Area before adopting this solution.
8. Team could not establish status of Antigua's Plan. A1, A2 and SafetyNET could be provided by negotiation with French authorities in Martinique.

3 Urgent GMDSS actions

3.1 As indicated in the Table, the majority of the nations which were visited require follow-up advice to produce or finalize their Master Plans. The NAVAREA IV Co-ordinator and the Martinique MRCC have important roles to play in this regard.

3.2 Although the Study Team received very positive feedback from most of the nation States visited and that many had draft GMDSS Master Plans, they lacked the funding to implement them.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

- 4 The Sub-Committee is invited to:
- .1 note the above information;
 - .2 invite IMO and Governments to take action as indicated in paragraph 3.1;
 - .3 forward a proposal to the IMO Technical Co-operation Committee to add funding for the smaller Caribbean nations' GMDSS plans to their list of projects; and
 - .4 take any other action it may deem appropriate.
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